

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

----- 076924

R 131646Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5801

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BE, SP

SUBJECT: BELGO-SPANISH RELATIONS

SUMMARY. BELGIUM RELAXES MEASURES IT TOOK LAST OCTOBER TO SHOW ITS DISPLEASURE AT FRANCO REGIME. END SUMMARY.

1. LAST OCTOBER BELGIUM TOOK FOLLOWING MEASURES TO INDICATE ITS DISPLEASURE WITH ACTIVITIES OF FRANCO REGIME:

(A) OFFICIAL VISITS WERE SUSPENDED;

(B) BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN MADRID WAS ORDERED TO LIMIT HIS ACTIVITIES TO UNAVOIDABLE PROTOCOLARY APPEARANCES;

(C) CULTURAL EXCHANGES WERE SUSPENDED; AND

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(D) BELGIUM PRESSED EC-9 TO SUSPEND ALL DISCUSSIONS

WITH SPAIN ON ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

2. ON JANUARY 9, BELGIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REEXAMINED
BELGIAN RELATIONS WITH SPAIN AND ARRIVED AT FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

(A) OFFICIAL VISITS WILL RESUME, BELGIAN GOVERNMENT
PLANS TO SEND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA AN OFFICIAL
INVITATION FOR A VISIT TO BELGIUM IN FEBRUARY (VISIT, IF
ACCEPTED, WILL NOT IN THIS INITIAL CASE BE CONSIDERED AN
"OFFICIAL VISIT"). WE RECEIVED NO INDICATION FROM FOREIGN
MINISTRY OR EC COMMISSION THAT SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAM TO
BELGIUM (LUXEMBOURG 31).

(B) OCTOBER RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF BELGIAN
AMBASSADOR IN MADRID ARE REMOVED.

(C) CULTURAL EXCHANGES WILL PICK UP WHERE THEY WERE WHEN
SUSPENDED IN OCTOBER.

(D) BELGIUM HAD STARTED INITIATIVE WITHIN EC-9 CONTEXT
TO RESUME COMMERCIAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EC-9 AND SPAIN.
THAT INITIATIVE IS NOW IN ABEYANCE ON BASIS OF UNCONFIRMED
INFORMATION BELGIANS HAVE RECEIVED FROM BONN. SPANISH
FOREIGN MINISTER, ACCORDING TO BELGIAN INFORMATION, IS
REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT SPAIN WAS NOT NOW INTERESTED
IN RESUMING DISCUSSIONS WITH EC-9 ON COMMERCIAL MATTERS
ALONE. SPAIN RATHER WANTS TO OPEN TALKS ON ASSOCIATING
WITH THE EC-9, ULTIMATELY LEADING TO FULL MEMBERSHIP. IF
CONFIRMED, THIS COMPLETELY CHANGES THE NATURE OF THE ISSUE
AND BELGIUM WILL AWAIT FURTHER INFORMATION AND WILL CONSULT
WITH ITS EC-9 PARTNERS PRIOR TO DECIDING ITS POLICY.

3. AT THE MOMENT, BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGED BY
PRESENT EVOLUTION OF EVENTS IN SPAIN, BUT DOES NOT
YET SEE CLEAR TREND AND IS ALSO UNCERTAIN ON POSSIBLE
TIMETABLE FOR EVOLUTION IT WOULD LIKE TO SEE TAKE PLACE
THERE. FIRESTONE

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